ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

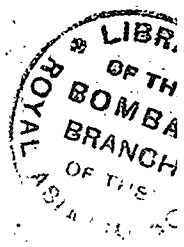
REFORMATORY SCHOOL

AT

YERAVDA

FOR THE

YEAR 1903.



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No. 125 of 1904.

Reformatory School;
Yerávda, 13th February 1904.

From

THE SUPERINTENDENT,
Reformatory School, Yerávda;

To

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,
Bombay Presidency, Poona.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Yerávda Reformatory School for the year ending 31st December 1903.

2. *Number of Juveniles in the School.*—There were 120 boys in the Reformatory on the 1st January 1903 and 41 boys were admitted during the year against 23 in the previous year. The larger number of admissions was possible owing to the completion of the new dormitory whereby the accommodation which had hitherto been 120 has now been raised to 148.

The total number of boys discharged during the same period was 21. Of these, 14 were released on expiry of sentence, 6 on account of having attained the age of 18 years, and 1 by order of Government on appeal. Thus the number of boys in the Reformatory on the last day of the year was 140 against the previous year's 120. The average daily number for the year under report was 124 against 125 in the latter year.

Of the 140 boys in the Reformatory on the 31st December 1903, 12 were below the age of 12 years, 2 being under and 10 over 10 years of age; 37 were under 14 against previous year's 29; while the number of boys of and under 16 was 83 against 74, and of those over 16 years 8 against 6 in the preceding year.

The classification according to race and religion is as follows:—Native Christians 2; Mahomedans 26; Brahmins 3; Low castes 36; and other Hindus 73. The last-named class decreased by about 11 per cent., while the low castes increased 6 per cent., the Brahmins by 1·3 per cent., the Mahomedans by 3 per cent., and Native Christians by ·6 per cent.

According to languages the numbers were—61 Marathis, 41 Gujaratis including 1 Marvari, 14 Hindustanis, 9 Sindhis, 12 Kanaris, 2 Tamils, and 1 Telegu. There was an increase of 10 boys in the Gujarati-speaking population over that of the previous year and also in the Sindhis who were more than doubled, being 9 against 4. The numbers under the other heads remained almost the same, excepting the Hindustanis in whom there was an increase of 3.

Out of the 140 boys, 5 belonged to Hyderabad Assigned Districts, 1 to Holkar's territory, and 134 to British territory, 1 among the latter being from the Punjab.

4. *Admissions during the year.*—Of the 41 boys admitted, 1 was 9 years old and 4 were 10 years old. The number of boys 11 years old was 1; of those 12 years old 8; 13 years old 12; 14 years old 10, and 15 years old 5.

Of the 41 boys admitted, 25 were convicted of theft, 5 of abetting theft, 1 of attempting to commit theft, 3 of lurking house-trespass and theft, 3 of lurking house-trespass only, 1 of criminal breach of trust, 1 of cheating, 1 of counterfeiting the King's coin, and 1 of causing hurt by administering poison. The maximum value of stolen property was Rs. 500, other amounts being one of Rs. 84-8, one of Rs. 80, one of Rs. 75, two of Rs. 69-8, two of Rs. 40-10-6, two below Rs. 40, 3 below Rs. 20, 6 below Rs. 10, and 14 under Rs. 5.

Seven of the 41 boys have been sentenced to be detained for 3 years, 9 for 4 years, 2 for 4½ years, 15 for 5 years, 4 for 6 years, and 4 for 7 years.

Out of the 41 boys, the City of Bombay contributed 16 against previous year's 5; Poona District 4, being same as last year; Karáchi 4 against *nil*; Dhárwár 3 against 1; Khándesh, Sátára, Secunderabad, Bijápur, and Hyderabad (Sind) 2 each; Surat, Belgaum, Kaira and Berar 1 each.

Eighteen of the 41 boys were habituals, while 23 were convicted for the first time. Of the 18 habituals, 1 had five previous convictions, 2 had three, 4 had two, and the remaining 11 had one previous conviction.

Lastly, of the 41 boys, 39 were illiterate and 2 were able to read and write a little.

4. *Conduct and Punishment.*—The general behaviour of the boys was satisfactory on the whole. The total number of School offences for the year under report was 17. Of these, 6 were those of damaging School property, such as taking out threads from carpets, breaking window-panes, cutting up lead pencils, &c.; 3 of possessing forbidden property, such as rejected pieces of *biddi* picked up on the road, of which the boys seem to be passionately fond; 3 of abusing and assaulting one another, 4 of disobedient or impertinent conduct; and 1 of malingering in order to shirk work. Out of the 17 offences, as many as 6 are to the account of one and the same boy, showing how a boy who once takes it into his head to become troublesome can go on committing offence after offence, regardless of all punishment. The same boy very strangely has not committed any offence since October last and has been behaving quite decently.

5. *Discharged Pupils.*—Of the 21 boys discharged during the year, 5 had learnt carpentry, 3 blacksmith's work, 2 book-binding, 2 painting and varnishing, and 9 farming. Enquiries were made as to all the discharged boys, except 2 who were sentenced to undergo imprisonment for escaping from the Reformatory, *vide* paragraph 4 of the last Annual Report. The results of the enquiries summarised are as under:—2 boys have been following the trade learnt in the School, 8 are occupied in other industries, 2 are attending school, 2 are living with parents, 4 cannot be traced, and 1 remains unreported. It should be remarked that the 4 untraced boys all belong to wandering classes, 1 being a Mang-garudi, 1 a Bhãmta, 1 a Waghari, and 1 a Fakir. Of the remaining 16, 1 is working as a carpenter, 1 às a cultivator, 1 as labourer, 1 weaver, 1 shopkeeper, 1 retail peddler, 1 vegetable-seller, and 3 have become private servants. It will be observed that except 5 all are engaged in honest work of one kind or another and that only one boy has remained unreported.

The statement "Reformatory Schools—II," which forms an appendix to this Report and furnishes similar information with respect to the boys that were discharged in the three years preceding the year of report, is even more satisfactory than the previous year's. Out of a total of 95 boys, 27, *i. e.* 23 per cent. against last year's 33 per cent., remain either unreported or untraced. Of these, it may be noted, 17 were discharged in 1900, the year in which this Reformatory was first transferred to the control of the Educational Dapartment, 7 in 1901, and 3 in 1902. Of the 68 boys about whom reports have been received, 16 are occupied in the trades learnt by them while in the Reformatory and 37 in other industries; 4 are living with parents, 6 have died, 3 are reported as reconvicted, and 2 as bad characters. The percentage of boys bad and reconvicted has gone down very considerably, being 8 against 14 in the previous year, while it was 28 the year before. Of the boys reported upon, nearly 92 per cent. against previous year's 85 per cent. are occupied in industries, including those living with parents; the percentage of such boys to the total number of boys discharged in the three preceding years being 60 against 52 of the previous triennial period.

Although the preliminaries regarding the licensing of boys were, as you are aware, all settled in the course of the year, the question of sanction by the Committee as required by the Reformatory Act is still pending. Until this is decided, the boys could not be sent out on license. I may state that when it became known that rules had been framed for licensing the juveniles to private employers, three more applications were received by me, which, with the previous year's 2, make in all 5 applications for employing boys on license.

6. *Marks and Gratuities.*—The monthly number of boys who earned gratuity by their industry and good behaviour in the year under report was 109, and the total amount of gratuity earned was Rs. 312-5-6 against 104 and Rs. 278-15-0 in the preceding year. The amount disbursed as gratuity to the discharged boys was Rs. 129-3-9 against Rs. 168-8-6 in 1902. It should be noted that the number of boys discharged during the two years of comparison is 21 and 25, respectively; the average earnings per boy being Rs. 6-2-6 for the current and Rs. 6-11-2 for the preceding year.

Under the revised rules published last October, the earnings of each boy are to be deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank in his own name, instead of the total earnings being deposited as hitherto in the Superintendent's name in a lump sum. This will encourage thrift and economy among the boys and teach them the value of money.

7. *Sanitation and Health.*—The year just expired appears to have been a very good one in point of health. The number of admissions into the hospital was very small in comparison to last year, being 38 against 109 respectively, and the average daily number of sick patients was ·58 against 2·9. It is also satisfactory to note that during the year there was no death among the inmates nor any serious illness. Captain G. C. Laing, M.B., I. M. S., Superintendent, Yerávda Central Prison, paid the School six visits in his capacity of medical supervisor, and since his relief on 25th December Major J. Jackson, M.B., I. M. S., has had time to visit the School once in the same capacity. Our best thanks are due to both these officers for continuing their kind interest in the boys' welfare.

8. *Building and Accommodation.*—The new dormitory to accommodate 28 more boys was completed and occupied from November last. That it was urgently needed is shown by the fact that within two months from the date of its occupation the number rose up to 140. The dormitory, with its beds of wooden planking on iron trestles instead of the old hammocks, is much liked by the boys; and to be selected to sleep in it is considered a special privilege. Another useful addition was the new cistern in the central circle built at the suggestion of Dr. Thomson, which has given great facilities to the boys in watering the garden plots inside the Reformatory. The widening of the entrance is also nearing completion. Lastly, the existing buildings were regularly whitewashed and all repairs promptly carried out as usual by the Public Works Department.

9. *Diet and Clothing.*—Diet and clothing need no comment; the existing arrangements for both being thoroughly satisfactory.

10. *Industries.*—The industries practised were the same as in previous years. There was sufficient work in all departments, book-binding included, in which some 2,631 books were bound and repaired against 423 only in the previous year. The number of carriages repaired, painted, &c., was 57 against 37; while that of articles of furniture manufactured and repaired such as chairs, tables, cupboards, benches, stools, &c., was 89 against 119 of last year.

The total value of the manufactures was Rs. 3,463-4-4 against Rs. 2,369-8-6 of the preceding year. Deducting Rs. 2,590-7-0 for materials and Rs. 237-1-7 on account of depreciation of tools and plant, the net profit for the year comes to Rs. 635-11-9 against Rs. 418-15-9 for the previous year. The total number of boys engaged in the trades was 91, of whom 36 were practising carpentry, 18 smithy, 19 painting, and 18 book-binding.

Agriculture, which comprised flower-gardening, vegetable-gardening and growing of *jowári*, yielded Rs. 643-14-9 against Rs. 605-1-10 in the preceding year. The expenditure on account of seeds, implements, &c., amounted to Rs. 338-8-6, leaving for net profit Rs. 305-6-3 against last year's Rs. 311-6-9. The number engaged in cultivation was 49, of whom 14 were learning flower-gardening.

The total net profit from all industries for the year under report was Rs. 941-2-0 against Rs. 730-6-6 of the previous year.

At the Flower Show held in the Council Hall, Poona, in September last the boys of this School received a special prize of Rs. 25 for the flowers exhibited by them and a prize of Rs. 3 for vegetables. The amounts won as prizes are to be utilized, as already ordered by you, in giving an open-air treat to the juveniles on a suitable holiday.

The question of securing new land for agricultural purposes for the Reformatory is at last settled. A plot of Government land to the west of the Reformatory has been selected for the purpose, and Rs. 1,500 have been sanctioned for sinking a well. If the experiment of finding water in the locality is successful, another well will be sunk, and it is hoped that the water from the two wells will be sufficient for irrigating the plot.

11. *Maintenance charges.*—The total maintenance charges amounted to Rs. 16,025-3-8 against Rs. 15,724-4-0 in the preceding year. The increase was due to the charge on account of salary of one additional teacher on Rs. 20 per mensem from April last and the cost of 28 cots for the new dormitory. Deducting Rs. 941-2-0 on account of net profit and Rs. 471-10-0 on account of contributions from Native States for boys belonging to their territories, the cost to Government on account of the institution amounted to Rs. 14,612-7-8 against Rs. 14,507-7-1 for the year previous.

12. *Establishment.*—There has been no further addition or alteration in the establishment during the year of report, except that N. C. Nene, a local-board master, was appointed in April last to the post of drawing master sanctioned by Government in the previous year. Hospital Assistant G. G. Wagle was transferred at his own request, and 4th grade Hospital Assistant D. N. Koppikar was appointed in his place. The latter also has applied for transfer on the same grounds as his predecessor, *viz.*, that in a small institution such as this Reformatory their skill and learning find no scope and they hardly have any chances of making further progress. Peon Dhondi Sadoba died on the 4th November 1902 from plague caught in the village of Yerávda where he was living owing to want of quarters in the peons' lines. He had rendered 11 years' service including the period he served in the Jail Department before his transfer to the Reformatory.

13. *Education.*—All the 140 boys in the Reformatory received manual training by going through Dr. Thomson's course of exercises in wood work. Of these, 80 were second year and 60 first year. Each of them received instruction in this course for one hour and a half three times a week. Every boy in the School was also taught drawing on two days in the week for an hour and a half on each turn.

The School was examined by the Deputy Educational Inspector, Poona, on 23rd July 1903, and the results were declared as good. Of the 5 boys examined in Standard V, 5 passed in arithmetic and in writing, 3 in reading, and 4 in history and geography. Of the 12 boys examined in Standard IV, 8 pased in arithmetic, 9 in reading, 11 in writing, and 7 in geography. Of the 15 boys examined in Standard III, 14 passed in arithmetic and in writing, all passed in reading, and 13 in geography. Of the 37 boys examined in Standard II, 24 passed in arithmetic, 26 in reading, and 22 in writing. Of the 29 boys examined in Standard I, 24 passed in arithmetic, and 23 in reading and in writing. Of the 9 pupils in the infant class, 4 were advanced. Of the 98 boys examined in Standards I to V, 61 passed in all heads.

The work of two School Masters, Shripad Waman and Vithaldas Prabhudas, was pronounced excellent, and of the third, Narayan Chintaman, good. The infants and first standard classes have school for 3 hours and the other standards for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours daily.

The methods employed for the boys' moral improvement were the same as in the previous years, namely, the inculcation of moral lessons from the reading books in the class room, recitation of moral and religious poems morning and evening, and readings from religious books. These methods, I find, have been making a gradual effect on their behaviour. The Deputy Educational Inspector's remark about their manner and discipline was 'Orderly.'

Forty new books were bought for the boys' library, making with the 79 books already there a total of 119 books. These were issued in the course of the year to 100 boys against 75 in the preceding year to be read in leisure-hours or in the night school.

14. *Exercise and Recreation.*—The School played in all 8 cricket matches last season, of which 1 was with the boys of the Bishop High School, and won 4 of them, while 1 was a drawn game. Free gymnastics and drill were practised as usual. They were also sent out to witness the Tabut immersion at Sangam, the Presidency cricket match at the Gymkhana, the Flower Show at the Council Hall, and Horse Races at Wánowri and Yerávda.

15. *Visiting Committee.*—The Visiting Committee paid in all 12 monthly and 8 fortnightly visits. Captain G. C. Laing, Superintendent, Yerávda Central Prison, visited the School 13 times, Mr. R. D. Prior, Educational Inspector, 8 times, Dr. A. W. Thomson, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, 7 times, Mr. Dorabji D. Boottee 5 times, Sirdar Rao Bahadur Coopooswami V. Mudliar 3 times, Mr. Navroji Padumji and the Honourable Mr. G. K. Gokhale twice each, and the District Judge, Mr. A. Lucas, once. The School was also visited thrice by yourself, once by the Acting Director of Public Instruction, Mr. F. G. Selby, and twice by the Inspector-General of Prisons. The Honourable Mr. E. M. H. Fulton, C. S. I., who visited the Reformatory on August 14th, "found everything in good order and thought the boys looked healthy and well"; and the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay, who paid us a visit on December 18th, was pleased to make the following remarks in the Visitors' Book:—

"Inspected the Hospital attached to the Reformatory this morning and found it clean and in good order. The books and records are correctly and neatly kept and written up to date. The cells, &c., are clean and the sanitary arrangements well looked after. 130 boys in the Institution, only 3 in hospital. Inspected all the boys; they look healthy and well cared for."

In conclusion I have once again to thank Colonel Onslow, R.E., Commandant, Bombay Sappers and Miners, for presenting a football to the School.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
N. M. PAJNIGAR,
Superintendent.

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I.

Reformatory Schools.

School	1
Pupils.	
At the beginning of the year	120
Admitted during the year	41
Discharged during the year	21
Died during the year	...
Remaining at the end of the year	140
Education on admission.	
Able to read	11
Illiterate	129
Religion.	
Hindus	112
Mahomedans	26
Native Christians	2
Instruction.	
Taught agriculture	49
Taught other industries	91
Net expenditure	Rs. 14,612-7-8

II.

Reformatory Schools.

After-conduct of Boys discharged during the three years preceding the year of report.

(1) Total number discharged in the three years	95
(2) Number discharged who were taught agriculture	37
(3) Number in entry (2) occupied in agriculture	10
(4) Number who were taught other trades and handicrafts	58
(5) Number in entry (4) occupied in the trades and handicrafts taught ...	6
(9) Occupied in industries not taught at school { Agriculture ...	...
{ Other industries ...	37
(7) Unemployed or with friends	4
(8) Reconvicted	3
(9) Of bad character	2
(10) Died	6
(11) Not known or not reported on	27